

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: Original
POSITION: Neutral

BILL NUMBER: AB 2544
AUTHOR: Gordon, Richard

BILL SUMMARY: Forestry and Fire Protection: land purchases and property use.

Existing law authorizes the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire), with the approval of the Department of General Services (DGS), to purchase land for lookout sites and other administrative purposes.

This bill would expand and clarify Cal Fire's existing authority, with the authorization of DGS, to approve certain real estate transactions valued up to \$150,000, for the following purposes: (1) purchase land and enter into agreements, easements, licenses, or permits to acquire real property rights, consistent with its program; (2) lease any of its property as long as the use is compatible with the purpose of the property; (3) allow rights of ingress and egress for timber harvesting, studies, and equipment use; (4) enter into leases for real or personal property; and (5) grant permits and easements for land use.

FISCAL SUMMARY

This bill could potentially result in minor savings by allowing Cal Fire to use its existing staff to review and approve routine real estate transactions in lieu of paying DGS to complete this work.

COMMENTS

Finance is neutral on this bill because it would increase flexibility for both DGS and Cal Fire by allowing Cal Fire to review and approve routine real estate transactions in-house, that would otherwise need to be approved by DGS.

Cal Fire has existing staff that possess real estate expertise and would not need to add positions. However, it is unclear as to how much workload, currently being handled by DGS, would be able to be absorbed by Cal Fire, but to the extent Cal Fire has additional workload capacity and the appropriate expertise, this bill would enable the state to reduce its overall transactions costs.

This bill is intended to provide the language necessary to allow DGS to exercise authority provided in Government Code 14667.1 that allows DGS to provide exemptions to departments for real estate transactions up to \$150,000. This language is consistent with Public Resources Code 5003.17 that allows DGS to exempt the Department of Parks and Recreation for lease transactions.

Analyst/Principal (0651) B.Dewey	Date	Program Budget Manager Karen Finn	Date
Department Deputy Director		Date	
Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____ Position Disapproved _____
BILL ANALYSIS			Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)

BILL ANALYSIS--(CONTINUED)**Form DF-43****AUTHOR****AMENDMENT DATE****BILL NUMBER**

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	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							
Code/Department	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
Agency or Revenue	CO	PROP					Fund		
Type	RV	98	FC	2011-2012	FC	2012-2013	FC	2013-2014	Code
3540/Forest&Fire	SO	No		-----	No/Minor Fiscal Impact	-----			0001